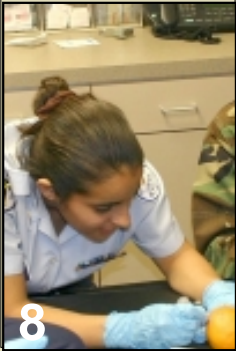


BORDER EAGLE

Laughlin Air Force Base ♦ Texas

54th Year ♦ No.13 ♦ April 7, 2006

Inside this issue



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Houston Junior ROTC cadets visit base, shadow XLers



11
Laughlin member serves country by day, community by night



Mission Capable Rates

T-1
91.8%

T-6
90.8%

T-38
89.2%

AEF Stats

29 Deployed

4 Back in 30 days

2 Leaving in 30 days

Team XL's last

DUI
Feb. 11, 2006
It's a crime!



Photo by Rich McFadden

Four ALS award winners from Laughlin, Senior Airmen Amillia Gaytan, Valeria Perchina, Staff Sgt. Christina Yatsko and Senior Airman Amanda Schmidt, pose for a photo after the award ceremony at Randolph Air Force Base March 30.

Four XLers sweep ALS awards

By Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Four Laughlin senior Airmen were recognized for outstanding achievements in an award ceremony March 30 at Randolph Air Force Base.

These Airmen in Class 06-03 of Airman Leadership School swept the awards' ceremony when they were called out for mentorship, leadership potential and academic excellence.

They are: Amillia Gaytan, 47th Flying Training Wing; Valeria Perchina, 47th Comptroller Squadron; Amanda Schmidt, 47th Operations Sup-

port Squadron; and Christina Yatsko, 47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron.

Airmen Gaytan and Perchina garnered the John Levitow and the Distinguished Graduate awards respectively.

"I always try and give 100 percent in everything I do, whether it be PME or class towards my Community College of the Air Force or my day to day job. I believe that helped me achieve the levitow award," Airman Gaytan said.

Sergeant Yatsko, who recently put on the rank after ALS, won the Leadership Award.

"ALS is all about learning

how to be a good supervisor," said Airman Schmidt, the academic achievement award winner. "They teach you your roles and responsibilities as a supervisor as well as how to be a good example, follower, leader and mentor. They also teach you about group dynamics and how to acknowledge, respect and appreciate diversity in groups."

During the five weeks at ALS, these four XLers learned how to be effective leaders and followers, how to communicate effectively, what their role as an NCO is in the Air Force and how their Air Force Specialty Codes enable the capabilities of

the Air Force.

According to Airman Perchina, many of the class activities involved teamwork and Airmen had to think and act as NCOs.

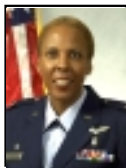
From the ALS course curriculum, they were able to learn such aspects as:

The Profession of Arms, which consists of 52 hours of instruction. This area is designed to help senior Airmen understand and accept their roles and responsibilities as military citizens.

Leadership - The Leadership curriculum area is the

See "Awards," page 4

Reputation really matters, it's worth guarding



Commander's Corner

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group commander

My mother is a true super-woman. She's 76, has two bionic knees, travels around the world on a regular basis, and has a Ph.D.

She was the one who always told me that no matter what obstacles came my way, I could always jump over them, climb under, or find a way around them. I don't want to insinuate she was a Marine in a prior life, but my husband says the same thing. She was the one who told me what was important in life was to always do the right thing, be kind to people, and always fight for justice. She was the one who told me I should always guard my reputation, because in the end of politics, that's what mattered.

My mother was right about almost everything, but I'd like to add a caveat to the reputation thing. What she didn't tell me was in the wrong hands, a reputation can be a misguided measure of worth. On a good day, it can be invaluable, a true reflection of your capabilities, and acknowledgment of your true accomplishments. On

a bad day, it can be prone to the misperceptions of an individual, easily perverted by an errant metric or circumstances that are beyond your control. In the end, all that matters is what you know to be true, and to believe in yourself, no matter what life throws your way. I do not state this lightly. The majority of my career has been a success, and I've been blessed by an impeccable reputation. I give 100 percent every day with the belief I should be able to lead the team to excellence, harmony of purpose, and ensure perfect mission success.

Of course, the reality check is bad stuff happens, people do bad things, and there are some things that are simply outside my span of control. As my wonderful husband always reminds me, life isn't fair or unfair, it's just life. In today's world of metrics and numbers, it is awesome to be judged positively when the numbers are good. The downside is it can be downright demoralizing to be negatively judged when the numbers are bad.

My most memorable learning experience was when I was told my reputation had been "trashed" because of a consistently poor performing metric. My immediate reaction was anger and disbelief that my many years of hard work could be derailed in an instant by a silly metric. I went through the stages of grief at having "lost" my

reputation. I started to think maybe my 100 percent wasn't good enough, maybe politics had won, maybe it was time to call it a day.

Fortunately, I was able to recover from the self doubt, thanks to my husband who gave me a reality check, and divine intervention of a call I received from a colleague out of the blue. I hadn't seen this individual since my early days in the military, but she thought to call me because she had recently overheard a discussion where my name was mentioned in a positive light.

To make a long story short, the demise of my reputation was greatly overstated; goodness had prevailed; all was right with the world. It was a hard way to learn the importance of the lesson my mother had taught me. Now I teach my children the same thing, but with an added touch. I start by emphasizing no matter what you think anyone else thinks, always do the right thing; be kind to people; and fight for justice. I tell them if you can look yourself in the mirror everyday and know you have done your best, you shouldn't care what anyone else believes.

My husband sums it up most eloquently as, "believe in yourself and never give up, hooah!"

Thank God for mothers and Marines.

Life experience teaches Airman to be good mentor

Core values give him strength, comfort

By Chief Master Sgt.
Dwayne Hopkins
379th Air Expeditionary Wing
command chief

Southwest Asia - At the time of my mother's death, my father was a U.S. Army master sergeant fighting the war in Vietnam. I was only 6 years old, but I can still remember that cold rainy day in October when I watched my 29-year-old mother being lowered into the ground. Little did she know

her decision to drink and drive would change the lives of those in my family forever.

After the funeral, my father returned to the war in Vietnam. I still don't know why he went back. He died of a heart attack before I had the chance to ask him.

Rags began when my three brothers and I had to live in a children's home filled with both physical and mental abuse. After a few damaging years in the facility, my brothers set out on a path

tangled with drugs or troubles with the law. None of them ever finished high school. I've always believed you are a reflection of the people you associate with.

My oldest brother was murdered while working as a late-night taxi driver, another brother was sentenced to seven years in prison and my youngest brother committed suicide.

Needless to say, at a very young age I learned life is not always fair. By age 17, I felt I had

See "Mentor," page 3

BORDER EAGLE

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

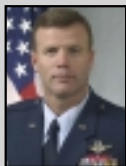
Submissions can be e-mailed to: olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil or bordereagle@laughlin.af.mil.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald by 4 p.m. each Friday at 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



**Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil**

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	
	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	
	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

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FREE TO ALL BASE PERSONNEL**

ID theft, adventures never experienced

By G. A. Volb
*Ogden Air Logistics Center
public affairs*

HILLAIR FORCE BASE, Utah - Luckily for us, the 21st century offers ample opportunity to enjoy cultures once too far away by plane or car to experience. In fact, with internet access and ever more efficient air travel opening doors to distant cultures, we sit on the verge of a global society, a worldwide culture unlimited by nation state isolationism and strict borders.

One day you can be in New York, Colorado or, yes, Utah, and the next day in Tokyo, Seoul or Manila. Ah, the pleasures of being able to travel freely in a world much more open to cultural exchange and free trade.

I, for one, have enjoyed traveling for much of my adult life: Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Palau, Australia, Austria, Germany, etc., etc. I just find jumping into the deep end of foreign cultures a "blast." And it doesn't take me long.

For instance, in the past two weeks I found myself doing just

that; I would be eating breakfast in Clearfield and then jet off to Montreal for a day of shopping. I'd return for a day or two only to repeat the process; I'd hit Montreal's novelty stores and local businesses in the morning, and then fly back to Layton for dinner. But that's me; I'm a 21st century jet setter. Or at least that's what my bank statement seems to say I am.

You see, recently, while perusing my bank statement, I came across some odd transactions. It seems, according to the details, that I would be eating lunch or dinner in the local area, then hop on my private jet to Montreal for a day of leisure shopping. I say "my private jet" only because it made more sense given the timeline of my transactions.

Over a week-long period, I apparently did this some five times: chilling in Utah for part of the day and then traveling to Montreal for, well, just about anything apparently - novelties, groceries, petrol, etc. The only problem was I've never been to Canada.

I can't say the same, however, for my debit card number which

seems to be helping someone enjoy the local culture of our neighbor to the north.

Between \$400 to \$500 later, I called my bank to cancel the card, put a track on the purchases and disputed each. And they were more than helpful in the process, though irritating as it was to endure. It didn't, however, do me any good for the three or four days my checking account was wiped out (though being unable to leave the house, I caught up on a lot of school work - the silver lining, so to speak).

I bring this up only as a warning to everyone, as the world via the internet and travel options becomes smaller and smaller, the chances of identity theft increase. I urge close monitoring of your accounts and don't hesitate to challenge questionable purchases. It's ironic in my case, since I'm really not worth that much. The same can't be said for everyone though, and that's when it would really hurt.

As for me, I'm going to check my account today just to see if I explored any other exciting cultures over the weekend.

Mentor, from page 2

experienced more pain than most had experienced in a lifetime. However, my luck would soon change.

Riches began in September 1979 when I completed high school and joined the U.S. Air Force. Like many others, this was my way out of a bad situation.

As a teenager, I was very shy, but I learned to speak up and listen to my mentors. I also learned how important it was to listen to the more experienced Airmen, NCOs and officers. I soon became a mentor among Airmen.

If you ever get a chance to help someone with a problem or their career, you will find it is very rewarding. Each time one of my Airmen wins an award or gets promoted, I feel like our entire team wins. I encourage everyone to take the time and be a mentor in the Air Force and in the community.

Personally, I often go back to my

roots by helping out with Toys for Tots. The Toys for Tots donations were the only way my brothers and I received toys during Christmas while in the children's home. Volunteering is my way of giving a little back to the community.

For me, mentoring in the Air Force began early on when I began to learn the Air Force Core Values - Integrity First, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do. Those values soon became my own.

Integrity first. Our word is our bond, and we should do the right thing every time - even when no one is looking.

Service before self. My family and I have traveled the world and sacrificed a lot for our country, accepting hardship duties and difficult jobs to fulfill Air Force needs. It wasn't always easy, but my family and I have made the best of each base and duty position.

Excellence in all we do. I've never accepted anything less than

excellence. If it's worth doing, then it should be done correctly the first time. This is one of the key reasons I've been successful in the Air Force.

With much credit to my Air Force career and the many who have mentored me, I've come a long way from the once hardened zero-emotions person in rags. From an airman basic to a chief, I've learned the importance of caring, love and self respect. I know it's not what you take with you that counts, it's what you leave behind.

I encourage everyone to leave behind good memories of fun and laughter with family and friends. Leave behind better-trained Airmen who understand the Air Force Core Values. Leave behind a better Air Force.

Riches are not about money and self worth. It's about good memories with loved ones, friends and Airmen. My past has made me strong; my future will make me stronger.

Awards, from page 1

largest within ALS at 86 hours. This area is designed to provide practical knowledge and experience with Air Force fundamentals essential to effective quality supervision.

Communication Skills, which consists of 54 hours of instruction. This area is designed to provide senior Airmen with the communicative skills necessary for effective supervision, and the Flight Chief's Time, which allows the ALS staff to include special student activities to enhance the course.

The Airmen attending ALS learned more than what is in a book.

"NCO duties go far beyond Enlisted Performance Reports and feedbacks," said Airman Schmidt. "You have to continuously be a good example and yet acknowledge that those below you

(lesser rank and/or position) can be an example to you as well. Mean what say and, say what you mean. Make everything clear as day, and look out for everyone."

Furthermore Airman Perchina added, "Be honest to yourself and others. Since every situation is different, you need to be flexible as a leader. You have to understand that every person is different; they have different motivations, and you have to think of that when you apply your leadership skills."

According to Sergeant Yatsko, teamwork is another factor that can enhance the success of a mission, and it is one of the secrets of their success. "Things go more smoothly if you work together as a team; you also get more done. I learned also that being a good leader means being a good listener to your troops and what they need as well

as what it takes to get the mission done," she added.

Even though they learned many lessons, all four Airmen stressed the importance of being a team player.

"It is all about the teamwork when it comes to productivity!" Airman Perchina explained. "We supported and helped one another in order to complete ALS successfully. Not only were we responsible for our own actions, but we had to be accountable for other people's actions as well. For example, when one person forgot to do the homework, the whole class had to answer for that."

In addition, she said ALS is not all about the awards but to learn. "Think of a whole-person concept and be positive. Attitude is everything! Also, do not think about the awards, you are there not to win an award, but to learn. The award is just icing on the cake."

Airmen voice opinions in 2005 climate survey

WASHINGTON — More than half of all Airmen participated in the 2005 chief of staff organization climate survey, which allows participants to voice their opinions on issues affecting them and their jobs.

Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley released the results of the survey to all the major commands March 31.

Strong leadership focus on the survey was credited for the 53 percent total force participation rate, an increase from previous years.

Overall, many of the numbers stayed the same, with only minor declines in some areas.

"The results are encouraging on a couple of fronts. First, the responses were from our total force team, and secondly, there was no noticeable difference in overall satisfaction from those deployed and those at home station," said Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray.

According to the results, active duty senior airmen are

the least satisfied among active duty personnel, although job satisfaction remained about the same overall. Trust in leadership was also an area introduced in the recent survey. From a total force perspective, middle enlisted member's trust in unit senior leadership is significantly lower than all other ranks, although overall job satisfaction increased slightly.

"There will always be areas where we need to focus and improve," Chief Murray said. "From the enlisted perspective, ensuring NCOs and senior NCOs are stepping up to their leadership responsibility is critical."

The majority of Airmen indicated, too, that Air Force leaders used the results from the 2003 survey in a positive way, and Chief Murray vowed that will continue with the 2005 results.

"We'll take data from this survey and continue enhancing our professional development at all levels," he said. "Our core value — excellence in all we do — is a goal of constant pursuit."



Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Milligan

GPS training in MOPP 4...

Members of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron dawn mission-oriented protective posture (MOPP) gear for a task qualification training event. The personnel were required to set up the Trimble Global Positioning System (GPS) 5700 Total Station on a known survey point then go out and get coordinates of lights, sidewalks, etc using the Trimble GPS 5700 Rover Rod all while wearing the personal protection gear.

Newslines

Tax season deadline

Base members are reminded that the deadline for filing income taxes is April 15, and the tax center here will offer tax help until April 14. For details, call 298-4858.

Correction

In March 31 issue of the Border Eagle, Maj. Robert Paleo's information was erroneously printed.

The correct answer to his personal hero is: Too many to name—I look for key qualities in my heroes and try to emulate those qualities.

Hazmat disposal

The hazardous materials management office is accepting hazmats for the Laughlin household free issue program. They accept unwanted, but still usable, cleaning and automotive products, pesticides, painting supplies, lawn and garden products, flammables and other hazardous materials for the base population to reuse.

Drop off times for hazmats are from 8 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If moving or PCSing, call to make other arrangements. Also, stop by building 75 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday to check out free issue inventory before buying at the store. Points of contact are Dena Shadwick and Carol Rodriguez at 298-4351.

Top-6 Bowlhaton

A bowl-a-thon will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., April 14, 2006, at Cactus Lanes. Bowlers and their points of contact will solicit sponsors for their scores from among Team XL with proceeds going to the Air Force Enlisted Village, formerly known as the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home Foundation. The AFEV is the only facility of its kind for surviving spouses of retired military enlisted people. There are currently 440 residents. To sign up or for more info, call your unit point of contact: 47th OG, 298-4761; 47th MSG, 298-4398; 47th MDG, 298-6325; 47th MX, 298-4260; or Wing Agencies, 298-4390.

What's cooking?

Participants in the Healthy Choices Cooking Demonstration March 30, prepare Sesame Baked Tofu. Left: Instructor LauraLynn Jansen gives lessons on healthy cooking and eating for National Nutrition Month. Classes are held quarterly. For information and recipes contact the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.



Photos by Master Sgt. Steve Miligan

2x5

PSD centralizes enlisted retraining

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – The active duty retraining program has gone virtual, and applications were processed by the Air Force Contact Center effective March 31 as part of the first phase of the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation.

Airmen interested in voluntary retraining as well as those identified for involuntary retraining will initiate the process online via the Virtual Military Personnel Flight.

The retraining self-service application in the vMPF will give Airmen step by step instructions on retraining under the Career Airmen Reenlistment Reservation System and the Noncommissioned Officer Retraining Program.

The new process consists of the following basic steps:

Review the retraining advisory to identify potential AFSCs.

Review Air Force Manual 36-2108, "Enlisted

Classification," for AFSC descriptions.

Review retainability requirements listed in Air Force Instruction 36-2626, "Airman Retraining Program," Table 3.3.

Submit a Retraining Request to the Air Force Contact Center using the Retraining Request link. Once received, contact center personnel will verify career field eligibility and qualifications to retrain into the AFSCs listed. They will then notify Airmen of any additional requirements they must complete.

Airmen will then complete the retraining application to include selecting their desired assignment preferences. The application will then be routed electronically for coordination to the unit commander who will forward application back to the contact center to be submitted to the Air Force Personnel Center Retraining Office for a final decision.

For assistance, call (800) 516-3775.

PSD enhances BCMR process in virtual MPF

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Information regarding Board for Correction of Military Records in the Virtual Military Personnel Flight was available to Airmen March 31.

This process was enhanced as part of the Personnel Service Delivery Transformation to centralize support for Airmen and provide them better guidance for completing all requirements for submitting a BCMR application.

The process will require Airmen to complete the Department of Defense Form 149, "Application for Correction of Military Records," attach appli-

cable supporting documentation, and mail the package to the address on the reverse side of the DD form. All requests must be received in hardcopy with the original applicant signature.

Applicants should complete all applicable sections of the DD Form 149, including at least the:

name under which the member served
member's Social Security Number or Air Force service number
applicant's current mailing address
specific records correction being requested
proof of proper interest if

requesting another person's records.

According to Master Sgt. William Mark of the 47th Mission Support Squadron and the MPF representative of the PSD transformation program, "The two new ways of doing business started March 31 and are being implemented Air Force wide. Individuals will begin by accessing the AF Portal with their Portal login/password."

Airmen requiring assistance or checking on the status of a submission should call the contact center at (800) 616-3775, option 1, option 2; commercial (210) 565-5000; or DSN 665-5000.

1x3

2x3



Capt. Dennis Abramowicz
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



GRADUATION

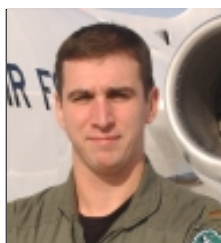
Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 06-07



Capt. Norbert King II
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



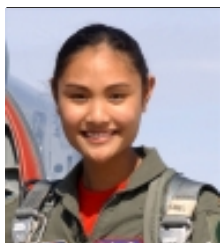
2nd Lt. Jonathan Barber
T-38C
Laughlin



2nd Lt. Jonathan Beale
C-5 (AFRES)
Westover ARB, Mass.



2nd Lt. Jason Boggess
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



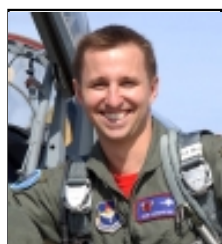
2nd Lt. Monessa Catuncan
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Justin Choate
T-6A
Laughlin AFB



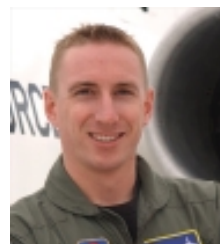
2nd Lt. Paul Curtiss
KC-135
Kadena AB, Japan



2nd Lt. Donald Davenport
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



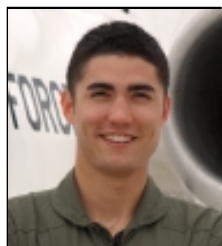
2nd Lt. Ross Foster
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Jeffrey Gould
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



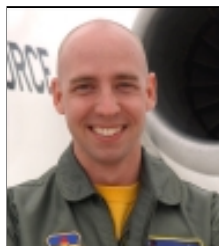
2nd Lt. Alexander Lammi
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Kevin MacElhaney
E-3
Tinker AFB, Okla.



2nd Lt. Dustin McCauley
F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Daniel Morgan
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Dana Parker
C-130
Pope AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. James Salazar
C-17
Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Jamie Szmodis
T-1A
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Christopher Thackaberry
C-17
Hickam AFB, Hawaii



2nd Lt. Benjamin Wheelan
KC-135 (ANG)
Scott AFB, Ill.



2nd Lt. Jacob Wilwert
B-52
Barksdale AFB, La.

Houston Junior ROTC cadets tour Laughlin, shadow XLers

Compiled from staff reports

High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets from three Houston-area schools toured Laughlin Air Force Base March 31 to get an orientation to the Air Force.

More than 70 47th Flying Training Wing personnel assisted in making the tour and job-shadow sessions a major success. Students visited the fire department, fitness center, aerospace physiology and the security forces military working dog training complex. They also ate in the dining facility and participated in a job-shadow program.

Students had the opportunity to shadow several Airmen in a variety of work areas including civil engineer drafting, communications network and maintenance, operations, weather, air traf-

fic control, finance, personnel, fire rescue, Services and medical.

"You all did a great job putting this together!" said Maj. Donald Keltner, Junior ROTC instructor at Lamar High School. He said the students received a lot of information, and he was pleasantly surprised by the dedication shown by all those involved.

"I thought the students might get bored in some areas," he said, "but (the tour guides) did a great job of keeping (the students') attention."

Students paid close attention to their job-shadow leaders since they are required to debrief the experience upon returning to their Junior ROTC class.

Maj. Keltner said it stirs up interest for future groups when students return with stories about their adventures.

Laughlin hosts tours for a variety of groups throughout the year to showcase the Air Force in action.

"Although we keep a steady flow of tours throughout the year, tour requests stream in January to May to fit into spring school schedules," said 1st Lt. Sheila N. Johnston, public affairs community and media relations chief.

She added that while oftentimes it can be difficult to fit tours around busy office and flying schedules, the reward comes in the faces of the tour participants at the end of the day.

"When we take a tour group into the back shops of maintenance, around a flying squadron or up in the tower, they feel they're seeing something special, something many others don't get to see," she said, "and they're right. Each tour is coordinated individually to give

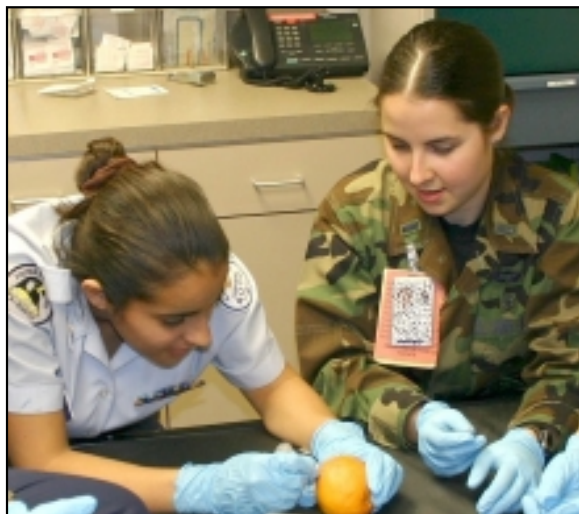


Photo by Master Sgt. Steve Milligan

Cadet Cris Saenz, of Foster High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, pays close attention to her job-shadow leader, 1st Lt. Terri Anderson, a 47th Medical Operations Squadron clinical nurse, during a visit to the 47th Medical Group March 31. The students toured Laughlin to get an orientation to the Air Force. They visited the fire department, fitness center, aerospace physiology and the security forces military working dog training complex.

them the best look at how an Air Force base works, and more specifically here, how we train pilots."

Major tours should be coordinated through Public Affairs to avoid scheduling conflicts with organizations around base. Typically, Laughlin's Public Affairs office hosts one

tour each week during the spring season and roughly one tour a month the remainder of the year.

To set up a tour or for details, view the "Tour & Speaker Request Form" on the Laughlin homepage at www.laughlin.af.mil or call Public Affairs at 298-5988.

2x5.25

2x3.5

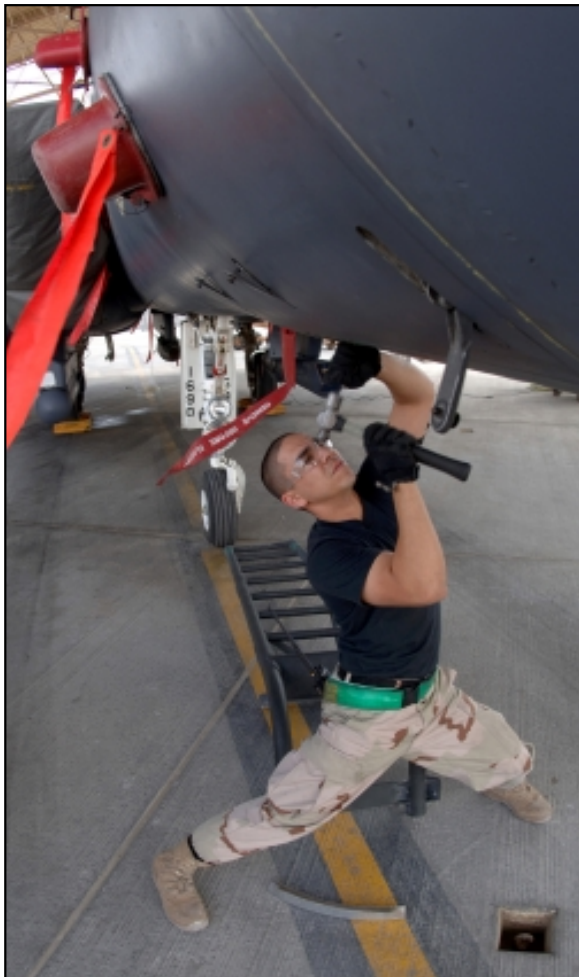


Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Strang

Deployed F-15s...

An Airman with the 379th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron works on an F-15E Strike Eagle at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia Wednesday. The F-15E is a dual-role fighter designed to perform air-to-air and air-to-ground missions. It is deployed from Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

Del Rio fire demonstrates virtue, need for joint firefighting training

The joint training periodically conducted by Laughlin Air Force Base and Del Rio Fire Departments was put to the test at 3:22 a.m. Wednesday.

The Laughlin Fire Department received a call from Del Rio Fire Department requesting mutual-aid support for a structural fire at Lack's Furniture Store in Del Rio. The fire had completely engulfed the facility, overextending Del Rio's resources. Laughlin's Fire Chief,

Craig Wilgus, immediately dispatched one engine company, with four personnel and a safety officer to the scene. Laughlin's Engine 9 arrived and transitioned seamlessly into the Del Rio's operation.

The crew performed a relay operation to supply water to Del Rio's ladder truck.

The additional manpower was used to man defensive handlines combating the fire and giving Del Rio firefighters needed relief. With the

added support of Val Verde Volunteer Fire Department, the fire was brought under control and confined to the Lack's Furniture Store area.

This event highlighted the importance of conducting future joint training sessions to ensure an efficient partnership during emergencies. Del Rio's Fire Chief, Harold Bean, was very appreciative of Laughlin's support.

(Courtesy 47th Civil Engineer Squadron)

2X2

1X2

3X

2X

Colonel sees AFAF help firsthand when home destroyed by Katrina

By Lanorris Askew
78th Air Base Wing
public affairs

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. — For years, Col. Robert Simmons had given to the Air Force Assistance Fund hoping to help someone in their time of need. Last year when Hurricane Katrina ravaged Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., destroying his on-base home, that giving mentality came full circle.

"When a catastrophe like that happens, the things you count on day to day aren't there," said the new Force Training Directorate director. "You may have money in the bank, but what happens if the bank is flooded, or the power is out and the ATM doesn't work? What happens, like in my case, if your house gets flooded and you don't have a computer to pay your bills?"

The answers to those questions, at least for Colonel Simmons and many of his fellow Airmen at Keesler, came in the form of the Air Force Aid Society.

The annual campaign raises money for four Air Force-related charities that benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Airmen, surviving spouses and families.

Colonel Simmons said this year's campaign will be a way for him to give back to something he can't even begin to put a value on.

Serving as the 2nd Air Force director of operations at the time, the colonel said he and his family had taken the usual precautions of filling up the car, setting aside food, and had some cash

ready at hand which they were going to need, but when the storm water flooded his home, he needed to move his two sons, then 16 and 20, to their grandparents' house in Massachusetts.

He was able to buy the plane tickets, but said he needed some money to give them in case of emergency.

"The airports were having problems, and in case they got diverted or had a problem en route, I wanted to make sure they had something to live on," he said. "They had set up the Air Force Aid Society on base, and like everyone else who needed help, I signed up. They were giving grants of up to \$500, but because I needed just enough to give the boys for travel, I got a lesser amount."

He said AFAS was one of the agencies that were there first to provide assistance to the Air Force.

"To me, they were real heroes," he said. "They did a great job, and it was greatly appreciated."

Colonel Simmons said he had been a regular contributor to the campaign and had seen the good that it does secondhand for years.

"Organizations that I've been a part of have received more benefits than what they donated, so I always felt that it was always important for me to contribute, and for people in my organization to understand that contributing is important," he said. "You'll never know when you need the help. It's always nice to know that there's someone there to help."



Staff Sgt.
Irasema Campuzano
Security Forces Patrolman
47th Security Forces Squadron



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi

Hometown: Austin
Family: Daughter
Time at Laughlin: 14 months
Time in military service: 5 years
Bad habit: Shopping

Greatest accomplishment: I'm about to finish school.
Hobbies: Swimming and running
Favorite movie: "The Notebook"

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why?: My daughter, because she is the most important person in my life.

XLer serves country by day, community by night

**By Master Sgt.
Steve Milligan**
Public Affairs

Dennis Carroll, 47th Services Division director, marketing practically holds down two full-time jobs.

He serves his country working at Laughlin Air Force Base and serves his community by providing hope to young, unwed, at-risk mothers in the city of Acuña, Mexico.

He began working with young boys and girls in 1993 when he and a friend founded Esperanza Missions providing care and housing for neglected, abandoned and abused children.

In 2001, he started La Puerta de Esperanza (The Door of Hope) which has become the focus of his ministry providing a healthy alternative for young unwed mothers-to-be.

"The need was great," Mr. Carroll said. "Mexico has few government programs and if you don't work, you don't eat."

"The risks to a mother and baby with any pregnancy are substantial," he said. "Complicate this with poor prenatal care, poverty, a lack of child care resources, a feeling of abandonment or exploitation along with a lack of maturity, and you have the makings of a serious problem."

The facility, located in the city of Acuña, Mexico, is a large house consisting of a large modern kitchen, four two-person bedrooms, three bathrooms with showers, a living area for the home counselor, office and storage areas and an indoor laundry room.

The girls receiving help by the ministry are 12 to 18 years of age and referred by Mexico Social Services.

They are allowed to live in the home at no cost during their pregnancy and for up to one year afterward.

According to Mr. Carroll, the girls receive a balanced and vitamin-rich diet, necessary clothing, prenatal medical care, hospital care for themselves and the baby, counseling, spiritual guidance and day care for the babies so the girls can continue in school or work.

"All of this is provided in a loving Christian family environment with plenty of personal attention," Mr. Carroll said.

They can provide for seven girls at a time, plus their babies, and Esperanza Missions pays all of the bills. Their funds come from contributors who share in their vision.

The girls who come to La Puerta de Esperanza are taught financial responsibility and share in meal preparation and cleaning, as well as other chores. They also have certain house rules to abide by and those rules are enforced by the live-in house mom.



Courtesy photos

Dennis Carroll receives an appreciation award in 2005 from then Mayor of Acuña, Alfredo Garza, for the work they are doing in Mexico helping at-risk mothers-to-be.

Education is also stressed, and they are given the opportunity to take classes in the evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In 2005, two of the girls graduated

from Business College in accounting and English.

"We strive to help the helpless and be fathers to the fatherless," Mr. Carroll said. "We hope to give these

new mothers the spiritual and practical training they need to start their new lives and to be loving and caring mothers to their new babies."



Residents of La Puerta de Esperanza learn to cook and prepare healthy meals as well as tackle other chores while learning valuable life skills, financial responsibility and how to be good mothers to their new babies when they arrive.

Sexual assault: Everybody plays vital role to ensure prevention

By **LauraLynn Jansen**
47th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron

"Samantha," Jodi shouted as she ran across the parking lot, "wait up!" Samantha stopped and turned to see one of her best friends running to her. "Hey, you wanna go out with the guys this weekend?" Jodi asked hopefully.

Samantha looked down for a moment and then at her friend, "No I think I'll stay home and chill."

"What's up with you? You've been making yourself scarce the last couple weeks; I miss hanging out with you," Jodi emphasized.

"I just haven't felt like it," Samantha replied as she adjusted the bag on her shoulder and looked away from Jodi.

"What's going on? I thought you were into Derek, and now you're treating him like the plague," said Samantha.

Jodi was completely baffled by Samantha's actions recently since they went out drinking with a group of friends.

"Nothing; I'm just not into it," Samantha turned to walk towards her car.

Jodi felt Sam's body beginning to shake.

"What happened, Sam?" Jodi pursued.

Samantha opened the driver-side door and slid into the car as she began to sob.

Jodi jetted to the opposite door and let herself in the passenger side, "It feels like you're holding back. What's going on?"

Samantha began telling Jodi, in broken sentences, about what happened after they all said good-bye their last night out. The whole situation felt out of control as she re-lived.

"If you love me, you'll do it," he retorted after she told him she was falling in love with him. She wasn't ready to have sex with him; and

she'd told him this before. Sam was ashamed of herself for letting Derek force himself upon her. She feared her best friend's reaction.

"Wow, I had no idea," Jodi sat back into the car seat stunned. "It's just hard because I don't know what to believe. You've been holding out on him while still saying you wanted him so badly. Not to mention how you dress sometimes. How is he supposed to control himself?" Jodi asked.

Sam looked down into her lap as her stomach sank and she wished she had never told Jodi anything. She just wanted to disappear.

Often in our culture there is a tendency to blame sexual-assault victims. We tend not to believe someone who has been assaulted by a known acquaintance or partner. Because of this 80 percent of victims will never report being attacked. The stigma is high especially in close communities. Actually, sexual assault

is a social problem. Seventy percent of rapes are committed by a known assailant in a familiar setting.

In Texas one in five women and one in twenty men will be a victim of sexual assault; and six out of ten Texans list being raped as a personal worry. Often sexual violence is prompted by a series of incidents of being harassed sexually.

Any behavior of a sexual matter that is unwanted, not liked, or that occurs on a repeated basis falls under the definition of sexual harassment. Harassment can be verbal, physical or written.

Everyone can help turn the tide on this problem through their day-to-day interactions and reactions.

—Organizations must create and enforce a zero-tolerance policy for any harassment, physical, verbal and written. These codes of conduct must be continually reinforced.

—Children too are victims of sexual assault. Parents

need to explain to their children the difference between an appropriate and inappropriate touch.

Under Texas law, someone who is intoxicated and/or unconscious cannot fully comprehend their circumstance and give consent. Don't encourage assault by urging someone to "go for it" with someone who is "wasted." Sex without consent is rape, and rape is a felony.

Every military base has a Sexual-Assault Response Coordinator program where you can go for additional information. The Laughlin link is www.laughlin.af.mil or call Sabrina Peña at 298-4545.

In Del Rio you can also contact Amistad Family Violence & Rape Crisis Center Hotline: (830) 774-2744.

Other resources include: Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, www.taasa.org.

National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence, www.ncdsv.org.

3x5.5

2x5

GPS signal enhances navigation, timing

Staff Sgt. Don Branum
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Warfighters now have a new way to receive Global Positioning System location and timing data — online.

The 2nd Space Operations Squadron here is delivering Zero Age of Data Navigation Message Replacements, or ZAOD NMR, on the Secure Internet Protocol Router Network.

The first end user of this new GPS data stream is Air Combat Command's small diameter bomb effort, where the bomb's GPS accuracy requirements are more stringent than what is available directly from GPS satellites.

ACC, in conjunction with tactical exploitation of national capabilities, needed the new GPS data stream now to prove the small diameter bomb GPS accuracy concept.

The ability to deliver GPS position and time information through the SIPRNet is a historic achievement, said Maj. Chuck Daniels, GPS Operations Center Director.

"GPS signals in space are fragile," Major Daniels said. "Radio frequency noise in the environment can disturb, disrupt or even destroy those signals. But if you can deliver position and timing data via robust networks into a net-centric environment, then in theory you're no longer dependent on the signals in space.

"When placed into a network environment, GPS service makes a leap forward into a more robust, more available, more accurate, more anti-jam-capable system," he said.

Bill Feess of Aerospace Corporation and Art Dorsey of Lockheed Martin, both advocates of net-centric GPS service, have long encouraged the operations community to move toward networks capable of delivering GPS information.

"This was an amazing team effort," Major Daniels said. "Our Overlook Systems Technologies, Inc, contractors, P.J. Mendicki from Aerospace and Dr. Dorsey from Lockheed-Martin were able to finish the work Mr. Feess started so long ago.

"We had several different organizations come together and roll up their sleeves, putting the mission first, and in a couple of weeks accomplished the impossible," Major Daniels said.

Several Department of Defense agencies and other users are already expressing interest in developing applications for the new technology.

"Warfighters, TENCAP users and GPS customers worldwide will long benefit from this milestone event," said Lt. Col. Harold Martin, 2nd Space Operations Squadron operations officer.

The applications for net-enabled GPS precision data are limited only by end users' imaginations. Civil agencies such as the Coast Guard, Homeland Security and Federal Aviation Administration want to use similar net-centric GPS signals in the near future.

Fit-to-Fight back on 'track'...

Juan Arreola, Del-Jen, Inc., advises would-be field users they're now welcome and encouraged to use the base track, but they should make sure and keep off the new sod on the playing field so it can grow in effectively. "We want (people/folks) to make full use of the track so they can maximize their benefits from Laughlin's Fit-To-Fight programs, but we also need to ensure the sod fills in correctly," said Mr. Roger McGalliard, Laughlin's deputy civil engineer. The playing field inside the track had deteriorated over the years to become a safety hazard. The running track has been closed since January while the Del-Jen repairs began. The project included re-leveling the playing field, installing a new sprinkler system, removing rocks and gravel that would have presented a continued safety hazard, and finally, laying new sod. As soon as officials determine the grass can be safely used without damaging it, the playing field also will reopen to XLers.



Photo by Capt. Ken Hall

LCSAM defeats CCS, 2-0, in volleyball

By Senior Airman
Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

LCSAM defeated the combined team of the 47th Contracting Squadron, 47th Communications Squadron and 47th Services Division, with a two-point spread of 26-24, in intramural volleyball action Wednesday at the Losano Fitness Center.

In the first game, LCSAM overcame sloppy play. The team struggled to get their serves across the net. But after the first 15 minutes of the game and with the teams tied at 19, the LCSAM assistant coach, Dany Carrasco, called for a time out. LCSAM came from behind to eventually win the game.

"In the first game, we were kind of struggling," said

Carrasco. "We knew we needed to get ourselves together. So we tried to set up our hitters more, and we hit what we needed over the net to win the game."

Thus, LCSAM led CCS, 26-24, to win the first match.

LCSAM had the serve first but the CCS team started out the second game strong and lead 11-6 with five straight points before LCSAM could get their rhythm.

LCSAM forged ahead at the 35-minute mark with a 7-point lead, mainly as a result of strong play by Ryan Dobbins unit who had several spikes and one block.

It looked like LCSAM might walk away with an easy victory, but the CCS held them to a standstill.

The CCS team put up a valiant effort and quickly tied

the game at 24.

In the final minutes of the game, LCSAM proved too much for CCS to handle.

Ryan Dobbins returned fire and added two final points with power slams over the net. Thus, LCSAM claimed victory with a score of 26-24.

Also, during Wednesday's volleyball game, the 47th Security Forces Squadron defeated the 47th Medical Group, 17-25, 25-11 and 15-12.

(Right) Ryan Dobbins, of LCSAM, proves too much for Renato DeJesus, of the CCS, as he slams the ball over the net during a volleyball game Wednesday at the Losano Fitness Center. LCSAM defeated CCS with a two-point spread of 26-24.



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi Owolabi